



OFFICE OF BISHOP MYRON J. COTTA, D.D.

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August 13, 2019

Dear Clergy, Religious, & Staff

The As One Project began in 2014, as part of the bankruptcy process, to restructure the services and staff of the Pastoral Center to maximize resources and facilitate collaboration. Fr. Mark Pranaitis conducted research on current conditions of the Diocese and provided recommendations. The fundamental change recommended was a shift from a top-down (Diocesan Centered) approach to a bottom-up (Parish Centered) approach to pastoral planning. The goal was to create a more unified (“As-One”) diocese and to develop a process that would increase unity over time.

Over the past five years the Diocese has made consistent progress towards this goal. Greater input from pastors has been sought when designing programs such as the Offertory Increase or the Whole Person Care Initiative. The Building Intercultural Competency for Ministry training was offered as a direct result of pastors requesting help with multi-cultural parishes.

In order to facilitate better communication between the diocese and pastors the position of Diocesan Resource Representative (DRR) was created. This position started as additional duties added to current positions, grew into a half-time position, and now into a full-time position. Initially six pastors agreed to participate in the pilot project, meeting regularly with the DRR. There are now 19 pastors participating. We hope to continue to grow the project over time.

Kim Fuentes began as the full-time Diocesan Resource Representative on April 1, 2019. Her job is to meet with Pastors, Diocesan Directors and the Pastoral Center Leadership Team to facilitate a Parish Centered approach to pastoral planning. She will help parishes to find the resources necessary to solve parish issues. Resources may come from the Pastoral Center, other parishes or from local, state or national resources. She will help to identify Parishes that have “Best Practices” in an area of ministry that can be shared.

In addition to having Kim as a Diocesan Resource Representative I am happy to announce that starting today, the Office of Communications will be publishing a parish centered newsletter titled As One: Parish Focus. The newsletter will be published every second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

The purpose of the Parish Focus newsletter is to allow individual parishes to share the good work that they are doing within their parish and to also share some best practices with other parishes. Information that can be found in the Parish Focus includes: a message from the pastor, upcoming parish events, history of the parish and basic parish information. Parishes will be selected for the Focus at random by the Office of Communications but do not have to participate if they do not want to.

The As One program allows us to become a more Parish Centered Diocese. The Diocesan Resource Representative and recently developed newsletter will help us to continue move forward as a Christ-centered and Spirited-filled Diocese of Stockton.

In Peace of Christ

Most Reverend Myron J. Cotta  
Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton